

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/04839

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int.Cl⁷ G01R1/06, H01L21/66

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Int.Cl⁷ G01R1/06, H01L21/66

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

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Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	JP 2001-223247 A (NHK Spring Co., Ltd.), 17 August, 2001 (17.08.01), Full text (Family: none)	1-5, 7, 8 6
Y	JP 8-160075 A (NHK Spring Co., Ltd.), 21 June, 1996 (21.06.96), Fig. 4 (Family: none)	6
A	Microfilm of the specification and drawings annexed to the request of Japanese Utility Model Application No. 54286/1987 (Laid-open No. 161366/1988) (NHK Spring Co., Ltd.), 21 October, 1988 (21.10.88), Full text (Family: none)	1-8

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not
considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing
date

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cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other
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"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later
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"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be
considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive
step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be
considered to involve an inventive step when the document is
combined with one or more other such documents, such
combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search
24 July, 2003 (24.07.03)

Date of mailing of the international search report
05 August, 2003 (05.08.03)

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Japanese Patent Office

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